

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS OFFICE

Minutes of Meeting

April 12, 2011

9:00 a.m.

The April 12, 2011 meeting was called to order by Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle in the Boards' office in Tumwater, Washington. Present were Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle, Board Members Bill Lynch and Kathy Mix and Administrative Appeals Judges Kay Brown and Phyllis Macleod, Administrative Manager Robyn Bryant, Hearings Coordinator Debbie Joblonski, and Administrative Secretary Janet Buechler. Minutes of the March 8, 2011 meetings were read and approved as corrected.

Handouts were distributed. The reports included the number and type of pollution and shoreline appeals filed, a brief summary of all cases that have closed, and the Case Statistics Report.

Appellate Report

Janet Buechler reported no new Superior Court Appeals have been filed. It was reported that the Supreme Court denied review of *Pacific Topsoils v. Ecology*.

Legislative Update

Bill Lynch gave an update on shoreline legislation still pending which would affect the EHO. The Senate side of the budget had not yet been released.

Financial Update

Andrea McNamara Doyle discussed the cuts which were part of the House side of the budget but stated we are still waiting for the Senate proposed budget.

ELUHO Transition

Kathy Mix reported that the transition team is moving forward. Meetings are continuing for discussion on policies and contract issues. There will be a joint meeting for all board members and staff of the combined agency at a date still to be determined.

Mediation/Settlement Conferences

Phyllis Macleod discussed encouraging parties to an appeal to settle their cases without hearing, either through mediation or settlement conferences held at an early date in the process. A pilot program will be developed to review cases with that process in mind.

Strategic Planning Session

Andrea reviewed the progress of the steps agreed on at the strategic planning session held in March. Ongoing assignments to continue the process were discussed.

Miscellaneous

Andrea reported on a meeting with the Director of State Parks which was held to discuss building and security issues.

EHO will host a lunch time ice cream social in May as a part of the Funshine Committee, which is a joint venture with Parks' employees, and will accept donations on behalf of the Thurston County Food Bank at the social.

Meeting adjourned.

Janet Buechler
Administrative Secretary